



# 2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book

*National trends and state comparisons*

*What Would It Take,  
Alabama?*



# About Us

## ABOUT VOICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN AND ALABAMA KIDS COUNT

*VOICES for Alabama's Children, founded in 1992, is a 501(c)(3) statewide nonpartisan organization whose mission is to ensure the well-being of Alabama's children through research, public awareness, and advocacy.*

*Alabama Kids Count is a project of VOICES for Alabama's Children and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Our annual research publication, the Alabama Kids Count Data Book, is the most trusted source of research on child well-being for all 67 counties in Alabama.*

*For more than 20 years, the Data Book has served as both a benchmark and roadmap for how children are faring and is used to raise visibility of children's issues, identify areas of need, set priorities in child well-being, and inform decision-making at the state and local levels.*

46

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

# ALABAMA | 2016 KIDS COUNT PROFILE

OVERALL RANK

46



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

DOMAIN RANK

46



## EDUCATION

DOMAIN RANK

48



## HEALTH

DOMAIN RANK

42



## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

DOMAIN RANK

43



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

DOMAIN RANK

46

### Children in poverty

2014

28%

303,000 CHILDREN

WORSENER

2008 22%

### Children whose parents lack secure employment

2014

34%

372,000 CHILDREN

WORSENER

2008 30%

### Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

2014

31%

341,000 CHILDREN

WORSENER

2008 30%

### Teens not in school and not working

2014

10%

25,000 TEENS

UNCHANGED

2008 10%



## EDUCATION

DOMAIN RANK

**48**

Young children  
not in school

2012-14

**58%**

72,000 CHILDREN

**WORSENER**

2007-09 56%

Fourth graders not  
proficient in reading

2015

**71%**

N.A.

**UNCHANGED**

2007 71%

Eighth graders not  
proficient in math

2015

**83%**

N.A.

**WORSENER**

2007 82%

High school students  
not graduating on time

2012/13

**26%**

N.A.

**IMPROVED**

2007/08 31%





## HEALTH

DOMAIN RANK

**42**

### Low-birthweight babies

2014

**10.1%**

**5,989** BABIES

**IMPROVED**

2008 **10.6%**

### Children without health insurance

2014

**4%**

**42,000** CHILDREN

**IMPROVED**

2008 **8%**

### Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2014

**35**

**410** DEATHS

**IMPROVED**

2008 **40**

### Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

2013-14

**5%**

**20,000** TEENS

**IMPROVED**

2007-08 **7%**



## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

DOMAIN RANK

**43**

Children in  
single-parent families

2014

**40%**

**412,000** CHILDREN

**WORSENER**

2008 **36%**

Children in families where  
the household head lacks  
a high school diploma

2014

**14%**

**153,000** CHILDREN

**IMPROVED**

2008 **16%**

Children living in  
high-poverty areas

2010-14

**17%**

**192,000** CHILDREN

**WORSENER**

2006-10 **13%**

Teen births per 1,000

2014

**32**

**5,009** BIRTHS

**IMPROVED**

2008 **51**



# WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

## ALABAMA

NATIONAL  
OVERALL RANK  
**46**

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

#### Domain Rank 46

##### Children in poverty

2014  
28% or 303,000 children

To equal the U.S. average rate of 22%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in poverty by 69,676.  
To equal the #1 rate of 12%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in poverty by 168,160.

##### Children whose parents lack secure employment

2014  
34% or 377,000 children

To equal the U.S. average rate of 36%, Alabama must reduce the number of children whose parents lack secure employment by 39,000.  
To equal the #1 rate of 20%, Alabama must reduce the number of children whose parents lack secure employment by 161,616.

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden  
2014  
31% or 341,900 children  
At a rate of 31% in Alabama of 48,422 lower children, Alabama is higher than the U.S. average rate of 31% in the number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden.  
To equal the #1 rate of 17%, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden by 152,624.

Terms not in school and not working (18-19 year olds)  
2014  
12% or 30,000 children

To equal the U.S. average rate of 7%, Alabama must reduce the number of teens not in school and not working by 1,700.  
To equal the #1 rate of 4%, Alabama must reduce the number of teens not in school and not working by 14,000.

### EDUCATION

#### Domain Rank 48

##### Children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool

2013-2014  
56% or 72,000 children

To equal the U.S. average rate of 63%, Alabama must reduce the number of children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool by 9,120.  
To equal the #1 rate of 36%, Alabama must reduce the number of children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool by 39,863.

##### Fourth graders not proficient in reading

2015  
71% or 96,261

To equal the U.S. average rate of 68%, Alabama must reduce the number of fourth graders not proficient in reading by 13,329.  
To equal the #1 rate of 60%, Alabama must reduce the number of fourth graders not proficient in reading by 19,961.

##### Eighth graders not proficient in math

2015  
63% or 87,201

To equal the U.S. average rate of 68%, Alabama must reduce the number of eighth graders not proficient in math by 8,521.  
To equal the #1 rate of 43%, Alabama must reduce the number of eighth graders not proficient in math by 19,540.

##### High school students not graduating on time

2012-2013  
26% or 14,239 students

To equal the U.S. average rate of 18%, Alabama must reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time by 1,000.  
To equal the #1 rate of 9%, Alabama must reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time by 10,000.

### HEALTH

#### Domain Rank 42

##### Low birthweight babies

2014  
10.1% or 6,369 babies

To equal the U.S. average rate of 8.6%, Alabama must reduce the number of low-birthweight babies by 1,245.  
To equal the #1 rate of 6.9%, Alabama must reduce the number of low-birthweight babies by 2,490.

##### Children without health insurance

2014  
4% or 42,000 children

At a rate of 4% in Alabama of 42,000 children, Alabama is higher than the U.S. average rate of 3.4% in the number of children without health insurance.  
To equal the #1 rate of 2%, Alabama must reduce the number of children without health insurance by 19,000.

##### Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2014  
35 per 100,000 or 410 deaths

To equal the U.S. average rate of 24 per 100,000, Alabama must reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 108.  
To equal the #1 rate of 16 per 100,000, Alabama must reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 254.

##### Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

2013-2014  
5% or 20,000 teens

At a rate of 5%, Alabama is higher than the U.S. average rate of 4% in the number of teenagers who abuse alcohol or drugs.  
To equal the #1 rate of 3%, Alabama must reduce the number of teenagers who abuse alcohol or drugs by 4,000.

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

#### Domain Rank 43

##### Children in single-parent families

2014  
40% or 412,000 children

To equal the U.S. average rate of 36%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in single-parent families by 34,076.  
To equal the #1 rate of 18%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in single-parent families by 221,800.

##### Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

2014  
14% or 152,000 children

Alabama is higher than the U.S. average rate of 14% in the number of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.  
To equal the #1 rate of 4%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma by 108,122.

##### Children living in high-poverty areas

2010-2014  
17% or 182,000 children


To equal the U.S. average rate of 14%, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in high-poverty areas by 189,931.  
To equal the #1 rate of 9%, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in high-poverty areas by 189,931.


##### Teen births per 1,000


2014  
32 per 1,000 or 5,000 births


To equal the U.S. average rate of 24 per 1,000, Alabama must reduce the number of teen births by 1,200.  
To equal the #1 rate of 16 per 1,000, Alabama must reduce the number of teen births by 2,800.

# What Would It Take, Alabama?

 <b>ECONOMIC WELL-BEING</b> <b>Domain Rank 46</b>			
<b>Children in poverty</b> <b>2014</b> <b>28% or 303,000 children</b>	<b>Children whose parents</b> <b>lack secure employment</b> <b>2014</b> <b>34% or 372,000 children</b>	<b>Children living in households with</b> <b>a high housing cost burden</b> <b>2014</b> <b>31% or 341,000 children</b>	<b>Teens not in school and not working</b> <b>(16 – 19 year olds)</b> <b>2014</b> <b>10% or 25,000 children</b>
<p>To equal the U. S average rate of <b>22%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children in poverty by <b>59,478</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>13%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children in poverty by <b>159,100</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>30%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children whose parents lack secure employment by <b>39,924</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>20%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children whose parents lack secure employment by <b>150,616</b>.</p>	<p>At a rate of <b>31%</b> (a difference of <b>46,422</b> fewer children), Alabama is better than the U. S. average rate of <b>35%</b> in the number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>17%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden by <b>152,824</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>7%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of teens not in school and not working by <b>7,200</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>4%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of teens not in school and not working by <b>14,829</b>.</p>

<div>  <b>EDUCATION</b> <b>Domain Rank 48</b> </div>			
<b>Young children not in school</b> <b>2012-2014</b> <b>58% or 72,000 children</b>	<b>Fourth graders not proficient in reading*</b> <b>2015</b> <b>71% or 36,061</b>	<b>Eighth graders not proficient in math*</b> <b>2015</b> <b>83% or 47,701</b>	<b>High school students</b> <b>not graduating on time</b> <b>2012-2013</b> <b>28% or 14,299 students</b>
<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>53%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool by <b>9,122</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>34%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool by <b>31,663</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>65%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of fourth graders not proficient in reading by <b>3,329</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>50%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of fourth graders not proficient in reading by <b>11,651</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>68%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of eighth graders not proficient in math by <b>8,621</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>49%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of eighth graders not proficient in math by <b>19,540</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>18%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time by <b>4,400</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>9%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time by <b>10,449</b>.</p>

 <b>HEALTH</b>				Domain Rank 42			
<b>Low-birthweight babies</b> 2014 10.1% or 5,989 babies		<b>Children without health insurance</b> 2014 4% or 42,000 children		<b>Child and teen deaths per 100,000</b> 2014 35 per 100,000 or 410 deaths		<b>Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs</b> 2013-2014 5% or 20,000 teens	
To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>8.0%</b> , Alabama must reduce the number of low-birthweight babies by <b>1,245</b> .  To equal the #1 rate of <b>5.9%</b> , Alabama must reduce the number of low-birthweight babies by <b>2,490</b> .		At a rate of <b>4%</b> (a difference of <b>24,415</b> fewer children), Alabama is better than the U.S. average rate of <b>6%</b> of children without health insurance.  To equal the #1 rate of <b>2%</b> , Alabama must reduce the number of children without health insurance by <b>19,862</b> .		To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>24 per 100,000</b> , Alabama must reduce the number of child and teen deaths by <b>128</b> .  To equal the #1 rate of <b>15 per 100,000</b> , Alabama must reduce the number of child and teen deaths by <b>234</b> .		At a rate of <b>5%</b> , Alabama is equal to the U.S. average rate of <b>5%</b> in the number of teens who abuse alcohol or drugs.  To equal the #1 rate of <b>4%</b> , Alabama must reduce the number of teens who abuse alcohol or drugs by <b>4,000</b> .	

 <b>FAMILY AND COMMUNITY</b> <b>Domain Rank 43</b>			
<b>Children in single-parent families 2014</b> <b>40% or 412,000 children</b>	<b>Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma 2014</b> <b>14% or 153,000 children</b>	<b>Children living in high-poverty areas 2010-2014</b> <b>17% or 192,000 children</b>	<b>Teen births per 1,000 2014</b> <b>32 per 1,000 or 5,009 births</b>
<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>35%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children in single-parent families by <b>24,578</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>19%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children in single-parent families by <b>201,685</b>.</p>	<p>Alabama is equal to the U.S. average rate of <b>14%</b> in number of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>4%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma by <b>108,723</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>14%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in high-poverty areas by <b>37,031</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>1%</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in high-poverty areas by <b>180,931</b>.</p>	<p>To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>24 per 1,000</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of teen births by <b>1,252</b>.</p> <p>To equal the #1 rate of <b>11 per 1,000</b>, Alabama must reduce the number of teen births by <b>3,287</b>.</p>



## **2016 Legislative Priorities**

- ✓ Increase Healthy Food Access for Children & Families
- ✓ Institute Uniform Regulation and Inspection of Child Care
- ✓ Promote Healthy Early Care & Education (ECE) Settings
- ✓ Expand Funding for Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program
- ✓ Protecting Adequate State Funding for Child-Serving Programs & Services



# ***Past Policy Wins***

- ✓ AllKids
- ✓ Statewide Child Death Review Process
- ✓ Graduated Teen Driver's Licensing Law
- ✓ Criminal Background Checks
- ✓ Foster Parents' Bill of Rights
- ✓ Child Passenger Safety
- ✓ Subsidized Child Care
- ✓ Revised Juvenile Code
- ✓ Children First Trust Fund
- ✓ Alabama's First Class Pre-K for 4 year olds



# ***Past Public Awareness***

- ✓ Importance of brain development during first five years of life
- ✓ Dangers of adult seat belts for children
- ✓ Need for teen drivers to gain experience in stages
- ✓ Benefits of high-quality pre-K
- ✓ Dangers of second hand smoke
- ✓ Impact of summer learning loss
- ✓ Importance of daily school attendance
- ✓ Importance of reading on grade level
- ✓ Alabama's dual system of child care

- **Join VOICES CAN!**
- **Become a Member**
- **Get Social**

*Let us raise our children so  
they do not have to recover  
from childhood.*

46



# alavoices.org

**Questions: Rhonda Mann, Policy & Research Director**  
**[rmann@alavoices.org](mailto:rmann@alavoices.org) or 334-213-2410 x 103**